

ATTACHMENT D

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A punching tool, having a guided, axially displaceable die plunger, which is fixed against relative rotation, in a guide bushing and having a bore in the front end in which a punching die can be axially fixed, ~~the bore~~ punching die provided with an annular groove, holding elements located in transverse bores in the die plunger, which holding elements releasably engage the annular groove, wherein during the punching stroke the punching die rests against a front face of the die plunger and can be axially fixed in place by said holding elements ~~in the form of snap-in balls, each of which is seated in a transverse bore in the front end of the die plunger and~~ which are maintained in engagement with the annular groove by means of ~~a spring washer~~ an elastic washer, the outer diameter of which ~~spring~~ elastic washer is less in the engagement position than the inner diameter of the guide bushing and which ~~spring~~ elastic washer can be widened to a diameter greater than the inner diameter of the guide bushing when the die plunger is removed from the guide bushing.
2. (Currently Amended) A punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein in the engagement position the outer diameter of the ~~spring~~ elastic washer is only slightly less than the inner diameter of the guide bushing.
3. (Currently Amended) A punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~spring~~ elastic washer is made of steel.

4. (Currently Amended) A punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~spring elastic~~ washer is seated in ~~an~~ a further annular groove located in the circumferential ~~face~~ surface of the die plunger, which further annular groove crosses the central longitudinal axes of the transverse bores and is only slightly less wide than the width of the ~~spring elastic~~ washers.

5. (Currently Amended) A punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the shaft of the punching die is formed with a ~~collar~~ flange, the rear of which rests against the front end face of the die plunger.

6. (Currently Amended) A punching tool in accordance with claim 5, wherein the distance between the transverse plane in which the ~~central~~ longitudinal axes of the transverse bores are located and the front end face of the die plunger is of such a size in relation to the distance between the central transverse plane through the annular groove in the punching die and the back of the ~~collar~~ flange that the punching die can be pressed axially against the die plunger by means of the ~~spring loaded snap in balls~~ holding elements.

7. (Currently Amended) A punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the rear end face of the ~~shaft of the~~ punching die rests against the bottom of the said bore in the ~~front end of the~~ die plunger.

8. (Currently Amended) A punching tool in accordance with claim 7, wherein the distance between the transverse plane in which the ~~central~~ longitudinal axes of the transverse bores are located and the bottom of the bore is of such a size in relation to

the distance between the central transverse plane through the annular groove in the punching die and the rear end face of the ~~shaft of the~~ punching die that the punching die can be pressed axially against the die plunger by means of the ~~spring-loaded snap-in balls~~ holding elements.

9. (Currently Amended) A punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~shaft of the~~ punching die is further ~~provided behind the annular groove~~ with a longitudinal groove ~~open at the rear end of the shaft~~, into which a transverse pin, whose diameter matches the width of the longitudinal groove and which is seated in the die plunger, can be inserted ~~into the bore in the die plunger~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A punching tool in accordance with claim 9, wherein the transverse pin projects radially outward out of the die plunger into ~~the~~ a longitudinal groove ~~and the end of the pin is located at~~ in the ~~exterior of the~~ guide bushing.

11. (New) The punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ends of the transverse bores facing the annular groove are tapered inwardly so as to prevent the holding elements from coming out of the transverse bores when the punching die is not in the die plunger.

12. (New) The punching tool in accordance with claim 1, wherein the holding elements are balls which are of such a diameter as to snap fit into the annular groove.

13. (New) The punching tool in accordance with claim 12, wherein in the engagement position the outer diameter of the elastic washer is only slightly less than the inner diameter of the guide bushing.
14. (New) The punching tool in accordance with claim 12, wherein the elastic washer is made of steel.
15. (New) The punching tool in accordance with claim 12, wherein the elastic washer is seated in a further annular groove located in the circumferential surface of the die plunger, which further annular groove crosses the central longitudinal axes of the transverse bores and is only slightly less wide than the width of the elastic washers.
16. (New) The punching tool in accordance with claim 12, wherein the shaft of the punching die is formed with a flange, the rear of which rests against the front end face of the die plunger.
17. (New) The punching tool in accordance with claim 12, wherein the rear end face of the punching die rests against the bottom of the said bore in the die plunger.
18. (New) The punching tool in accordance with claim 12, wherein the punching die is further provided with a longitudinal groove into which a transverse pin, whose diameter matches the width of the longitudinal groove and which is seated in the die plunger, can be inserted.

19 (New) The punching tool in accordance with claim 12, wherein the ends of the transverse bores facing the annular groove are tapered inwardly so as to prevent the holding elements from coming out of the transverse bores when the punching die is not in the die plunger.